



THE THATCHAM POSTMARK

THATCHAM and DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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The Chairman's A.G.M. Report

This year has again seen some entertaining guest speakers and also those from our Society. All of the talks were of great interest and very well received. Stamp collectors do have a wide and varied range of subjects to collect and talk about.

Membership has again fallen but we have had several new members who have all contributed to our meetings. Thank you.

I would like to thank all our committee members and helpers for their efforts throughout the year – Graeme Stuart as our most efficient secretary and for Westbex with Martin Farr who also handles the newsletter and publicity. To Dave Tanner who looks after all our club stamps and makes us a tidy profit. To Mike Ward for handling all of our finances and also organises our autumn society auction. To Ann and Juliet and Ian for doing such a wonderful job with our refreshments throughout the year – especially for the AGM and our Christmas party. Then last but not least all those members who helped with the Westbex hall set-up and the tables and chairs at our club meetings. We could not do it without you all

The auction last year was a little disappointing considering all the effort involved. There are over 600 lots for this November with a good variety of material. Do come along and support it and all our other meetings too.

Thank you all. Barney Bardsley, Chairman

OUR 50TH

ANNIVERSARY YEAR

Year 50

Issue 134

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Graeme presenting Martin with the Jerry Wilson
Memorial Cup (The Monday Cup as was)

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anything in this newsletter
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Photo Gallery



Tim Usher from
Camberley



A letter of 1740 with
Newbury Town Mark



The flowers of 50 states
of America



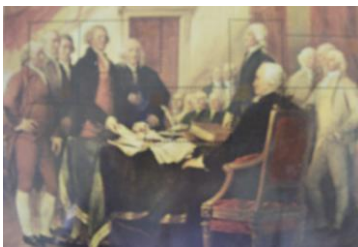
Ron Jones from
Camberley



P'u Song Ling and his Strange Stories from a Chinese Studio



The story of Fire Engines



The signing of the Declaration
of Independence



Fire engines
issues



Brunel's Inventions
issues



Wonderful working model of
Trevethick's Steam Engine



The Hindenberg disaster



Our A.G.M. committee with John Baron



An Orient Express issue

PAST EVENTS

Monday 4th July – The Gerry Wilson Cup Competition and `Flowers`

There were 15 members present for this meeting and six entered sheets for the competition. Everyone had voting slips with 5,3,and 1 points awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

The results were as follows :-

Third place	Graeme Stewart	25 points	The Antarctic Expedition of Amundsen
Second place	Bob Paterson	26 points	The Apollo Space Programme
First place	Martin Farr	28 points	Strange Stories from a Chinese Studio

Graeme then presented Martin with the Jerry Wilson Memorial Trophy.

Then we had a mini auction where 8 from 20 lots were sold.

For part 2 we had a thematic session on `Flowers`

Graeme Stewart showed a sheet of the Flanders Poppies issues of GB commemorating the Battle of the Somme and Flanders.

Juliet Keel, shown by Ian, was a display of old 1900-1927 postcards of flowers and of people holding bouquets of flowers. Then some lovely cards about the language of flowers –

Rhododendrons	Danger! Beware
Honeysuckle	Generous and devoted affection
Snowdrops	Hope
Violets	Rural Happiness

Ian Keel then showed large sheet of the flowers issues of the states of the USA – each one showing the special flower of that state.

Judy Straughan put up a sheet of stamps from Alderney showing birds and insects and mammals all against a background of nice flowers. She then spoke about the Taxa of various issues of the UK (Taxa – the number of species of nature per square kilometre). Some counties were quite poor with the Channel Islands an exception- especially Alderney- with at least 100 species per sq. kilometre.

Then **Dave Tanner** - as it was the 4th of July – the anniversary of American Independence Day – put up several sheets about it – The granting of it – Washington and his troops - some personalities of the time and a nice sheet showing the signing of the Declaration on July 4th 1776.

Thursday 21st July – Visit from the Camberley Philatelic Society

The Society welcomed two of their members – **Tim Usher and Ron Jones**.

`The American Civil War` was the theme of Tim`s talk, with a wide ranging display of material covering many aspects – a war which had cost no less that 625 thousand dead – more that both world wars and the Vietnam war combined! He showed patriotic covers from both sides – the first war which had been widely illustrated – particularly on the Union side. This was followed by Postal history with covers, stamps and bank- notes from both sides including low values `fractional currency` issued when coins had been hoarded. There were examples of `turned cover` where envelopes were re-used and one showing a balloon used for observation. Then he showed illustrations from magazines showing the Generals such as McClellan and Grant. Footwear was important with Gordon McKay

inventing a machine which sewed soles to uppers – previously all done by hand. Tim then showed examples of prisoner of war mail and spoke about the awful sanitation causing more deaths than combat. Then he finished a most informative talk and display with tax stamps used on many items to pay for the cost of the war.

For part two **Ron Jones** gave a display on Poland where he had worked in the early 1960`s. The display covered the period from WW2 to the present day and started with the stamps of the Nazi `general Government`. Next there were stamps issued by the Polish Government in exile with field post office cancels on some of the material, and then stamps issued for the liberation – on the Polish contribution to the war and about the Nazi concentration camps.

Much of this was issued during Communist rule but, after its fall, there are now regular issues of Easter and Christmas stamps with many about the visits by Popes to Poland and various other countries. He showed and spoke about many famous Poles including Nobel prize-winners that appear on the countries stamps including Marie Curie, Helena Rubenstein and Sam Goldwyn to name a few. A very informative display indeed.

At the end of the meeting our Chairman **Barney Bardsley** thanked both speakers for their wonderfully varied and interesting displays.

As usual, there was no Monday meeting in August

Thursday 18th August - `Show, Tell and Sell`

There were only 16 members present for this meeting – but it was August after all ! SAS Auctions were in attendance with Nathan Gregory as their representative and he did accept several items for the company with just a 10% sales commission.

Martin Farr started the show with a full frame of `The Story of Flight` from the earliest days of balloons including the first air-mail service when Paris was besieged by the Prussians and a balloon carried 227lb of mail up and away out of Paris. Then to dirigibles and the zeppelin series. Some nice covers of zeppelin flights. Then to the Wright brothers, the worlds first airmail flight in Allahabad and finally crossing of the Atlantic with Allcock and Brown and Lindbergh. A very nice informative display.

Then **Nathan Gregory** showed some commonwealth and GB issue sheets, presentation packs and silks and several hi-value issues. All of these were for sale and Nathan did sell several items.

Graeme Stuart was next up and he started with `Bishop marks` that were used from 1600-1663 and a sheet of cancellation types. Then a 1742 and 1797 Bishop marked covers, provincial town marks from 1740-1801 and a very early cover from Westbury to London. A very nice set of items.

Bob Paterson then took to the floor to show French issues from 1942 and some interesting resistance forgeries and then some French Postal service overprints issued at the end of the war. Very interesting and not often seen.

Dave Tanner started the second half with a full board of items – all for sale – and some were sold ! He showed quite a few sheets of the Zaire river rapids expedition of 1974-5 by the REME and Col. Blashford Snell. It started on 27th October 1974 and the sheets covered such places as Kolwezi, Kindu, Kissangani and Kinshassa and it finished in Banana on 20th January 1975. Very nice colourful pictorial sheets.

Mike Smith then showed just 1 stamp! – a Cape of Good Hope stamp with overprint and he spoke about its issue and its double overprint – might be a forgery but, if not, worth quite a bit !

Mike Gurr then showed Fire Brigade issues from a set of 10 folders that he had recently purchased at an auction – thought he had 1 sheet and got 10! What a fine collection of colourful stamps and data all beautifully presented as well – What a find !

Francis Connolly then put up some very early GB issues – 1d blues and others with certification and trial issues for some rarities that he has. Very nice too.

Alan Cross was next and he showed 22 Australian sequential postal issues and a lovely collection of old pictures about the Australian Postal Service and offices.

Then finally **Graeme** showed us old postcards of Newbury railway station with track layouts as were. Then some Boer war covers to a lady in Newbury – the mother of a Boer war hero.

What a very interesting and entertaining evening

Monday 5th September – Steam Engines

Bob Paterson had no steam engines but brought cards of the steam ships of the Falmouth Estuary and early 1900 steam yachts – St Maws, Rossland, SS Victor, some passenger steamers and many others. A nice selection.

Ian Keel spoke of their journey of the Trans Siberian railway that had two track widths and all the train bogies had to be changed over at the Chinese border with Mongolia.

Juliet Keel showed some stereoscopic cards of train and engines from USA and the Canadian Pacific express train and and some pictures of the Walford tunnel.

Tony Jordan then spoke of how horse carriages came to an abrupt end when the Stockton and Darlington was inaugurated. He showed cards of steam coaches and Isambard Kingdom Brunel cards of his ideas and inventions such as stations, bridges tunnels and the SS Great Britain.

Mike Gurr then showed several lovely sheets of horse-drawn steam fire engines and some fdc's of steam engines and early Merryweather fire engines.

There was a mini auction at half time and 6 items from 20 were sold

Martin Farr started off part 2 with a display of 9 sheets showing the history of steam engines from Newcomen to Trevethick's first real steam engine. Then on to improved engine types, the Rainhill trials of 1825 when Stevenson's Rocket won the day. Then some pages of USA engines (mostly made in England) and finally a large fdc of the Orient Express issued by N Korea – where else!

Then **Andrew Gore** showed some stereoscopic pictures of traction engines threshing peas and two Boer war railway bridges.

Neil Hatton spoke about Trevethick and how a reproduction of his engine sometimes runs through Cambourne. He then showed us a fantastic chrome working model of the steam engine – absolutely gorgeous – I want one !

To finish off the afternoon **Graeme Stewart** showed us pictures of Newbury station and ones with a 1907 steam train. Then several sheets of letters sent by early train postal services and some train spotting booklets. What a great afternoon and so interesting.

THE CONTINUING PAGE**Thursday 15th September – The Annual General Meeting**

There were 21 members present for the meeting with apologies from 2 others.

The minutes of the last AGM meeting were read and passed and there were no matters arising.

The Chairman then read his annual report - This year has been dominated by our 50th Anniversary celebrations. The buffet lunch with the guest speaker – Thomas Plant – was well attended and those present all seemed to enjoy themselves. The society produced a History Booklet and commemorative mugs were given out to all our members. A great amount of work was involved in organising the event and so thanks are due to all those who contributed to the occasion and produced the souvenirs.

As always, we have had a wide and varied programme of events which have been well attended. For the society to thrive input from members is most important. The annual auction proved a success and we have even more lots on offer this year. Westbex continues to be a success and thanks are due to Graeme and Martin who organise this important event.

I would like to thank the committee for all the work they do for the society – Graeme, our long serving secretary, continues to the job must efficiently. Mike Ward as treasurer and a major cog in the auction machine who works hard to balance the books and, like all good treasurers, has to be persuaded to spend money! Mike Gurr has done a splendid job running the Packet circuit for several years and who has decided to step down from this role. We thank him for all his hard work.

Martin produces the quarterly newsletter and would welcome content from members. Dave is doing a splendid job in organising the club stamps and accessories for members and we must give great thanks to Ann, Juliet and Ian for all our catering throughout the year – where would we be without them!

Finally, we are looking for someone to operate and run the Packet circuit and also an Archivist who can look after all the society data. If you would like to take on any of these tasks then please let the committee know. Also we are always looking for new ideas for the evening meetings. Thank you, Barney Bardsley.

Mike Ward read out the Treasures report. There were a couple of items that were well explained by Mike and he announced that the club subscription rate would stay at £10. The report was passed unanimously. John Baron would like to relinquish the role of Honorary Accounts auditor – he does live a long way away! After some thoughts Martin Farr said that he would take on the role.

The Election of Society Officers –

President	John Baron
Chairman	Barney Bardsley
Secretary	Graeme Stuart
Treasurer	Mike Ward

Committee Colin Bartholemew, Tony Jordan and Mike Gurr

All Officers of the club were voted in unanimously.

Graeme Stuart then gave his Westbex report. A profit of £732 was made but it is harder to get advertisers. Thanks to Grosvenor who paid for our press adverts and to Ann for once again organising the raffle so well and getting the prizes too – it does make quite a profit for us. Thanks also to Richard Onions for his great refreshments. The dealers were quite happy and we have already got 18 signed up for next year when it will be held on March 25th.

Mike Gurr gave his report on the packet circuit and announced that he would be giving up the job shortly. There was some interest in taking it over but, if not, it might have to be administered by the Basingstoke society who have some boxes in our circuit – but they would take the profits!

Then the Chairman proposed that our Secretary – Graeme Stuart – who has given over 33 years of dedicated service to the Society be awarded with an Honorary Life Membership. This proposition was voted for unanimously. There being no further business we all retired to have a very nice supper provided by Ann, Juliet and Ian with wine and drinks served by Martin.

Many thanks to those who put out all the tables and chairs and then put them all away again.

USEFUL WEBSITES

Tony Bray for World new issues at www.tonybray.co.uk

Royal Mail for all past and new issues at www.royalmail.com

The society website with lots of data and links at www.tdps.co.uk

Avion Thematics – one of the best organised sites at www.avionstamps.com

The Avion website now incorporates the stock listings for Phoenix International

Portsmouth stamp shop for awkward items and covers at www.portsmouthstampshop.co.uk

A.B.P.S for all the latest philatelic news, events and links at www.abps.org.uk

www.stampauctionsnetwork.co.uk for lots of info about auctions almost everywhere

Recent and Future Royal Mail Issues

September 2 nd	The Great Fire of London
September 15 th	Agatha Christie
October 20 th	Mr Men and Little Miss
November 8 th	Christmas Issues
Post and Go	
September 14 th	Ladybirds
November 14 th	Hibernating Animals

Refreshments Problems

An extra pair of hands is required at our meetings – especially the Monday meetings. Ian and Juliet cannot always guarantee to be available and Ann may not be able to come to all the meetings as well.

It really needs two persons on a Thursday and perhaps maybe just one on a Monday to help prepare, present and clear up afterwards.

Would you please speak to Ian and Juliet if you can help as required.

Thank you.

Future Programme and Events

Monday 3 rd October	Inventions
Saturday 8 th October	33 rd Annual Stamp Fair at the Memorial Hall 10am - 4pm.
Auction lots will be on view for the November Auction	
Thursday 20 th October	Mike Smith with `Africa` part 2
Monday 7 th November	Curiosities
Thursday 17 th November	Society Auction – viewing from 6.30pm
Monday 5 th December	Lighthouses and Christmas Social
Thursday 15 th December	Christmas Competitions and Social evening
Saturday 17 th December	Stamp Fair at the Memorial Hall
Monday 9 th January	Balloons

THE BACK PAGE

“Club Stamps” corner

Club Stamps are well looked after by **Dave Tanner** who will be present at most of our club meetings. There will usually be a Club Table at all stamp fairs held at the Memorial Hall.

Accessories

Dave is also the contact for the purchase of all philatelic accessories – most of which are available to be ordered at a small discount.

Stamps of the World Catalogue set (normal price - £200) – TDPS price £155 + p&p

Collect British stamps (normal price - £12.95) – TDPS price £10 + p&p

GB Concise (normal price - £30) – TDPS price £23.50 + p&p

A small percentage always goes to club funds. Give Dave a ring on 01256 780467

Juliet and Ian went to the Philatelic Congress – had a great time – and came back with the following missive that was presented by Colin Searle to the 2016 congress.

An extract from *The Cambridge Decalogue* (10 Commandments) written by George Higlett for the 1925 Congress held in Cambridge.

1. Thou shalt have no other hobby but stamps.
2. Thou shalt not make to thyself any forgery, nor the likeness of any line-engraved, surface printed, or lithographed stamps, for the law will not hold him guiltless that gets caught at the game.
3. Thou shalt not speak disrespectfully of the Gibbons Catalogue which shall be a light unto thy path, and whatsoever is therein thou shalt not presume to question.
4. Remember to keep sacred the meeting night of thy society, for truly thou hath all the other days of the month in which thou mayest do as thou likest but on this night thou must honour thy Society and its officers who have laboured for thy pleasure, by thy presence.
5. Thou shalt not handle thy stamps with any other things than stamp tweezers, neither curling tongs, nor fire tongs nor the tongues that are like unto sharp two-edged swords. And when thou handlest thy neighbours stamps thou shalt put no bird-lime upon the tweezers.

Colin has an amazing collection of documents and ephemera from 100 years of Philatelic Congress and entertained his audience with just a few choice pieces.

Officers of the Club

President	John Baron	01933 650093
Chairman	Barney Bardsley	0777 0376 235
Vice Chair		
Secretary	Graeme Stewart	01635 866942
Treasurer	Mike Ward	01635 864307

Committee

Tony Jordan	01189 302279
Colin Bartholemew	01635 865457

Archivist

WestBex Graeme and Martin

Publicity

Martin Farr